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Europa and the Bull

Gobelin Tapestry, early eighteenth century, artist unknown



Acis and Galatea

*Gobelin Tapestry, early eighteenth century,
after a design by Charles de la Fosse*

The Metamorphoses

A Set of Gobelin Tapestries

HANGING in the Seventh Gallery in the Evans Building are a set of seven Gobelin tapestries, lent anonymously to the Museum.

This is a rare opportunity for the lovers and students of tapestries to see and enjoy works of art from that famous French factory, as few authentic pieces are owned in Boston, and it is many years since any have been exhibited here. The subjects of these tapestries are taken from Greek and Roman mythology as related by Ovid in his *Metamorphoses* and *Ars Amatoria*, and the designs are drawn with all the grace and lightness of the best painters of the French Court in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Various artists made the paintings for the tapestries between 1688 and 1701. Though all their names are recorded in the books of the factory only two of the tapestries, "Diana's Return from the Chase" and "Acis and Galatea," can be ascribed with certainty to their author, Charles de la Fosse. These two pieces still preserve in the lower selvages the signature of Jans des Gobelins, master weaver at the Gobelins from 1691-1731, under whose direction they were woven. The subjects of the tapestries are: "Europa and the Bull" (here reproduced), "Diana and the Sleeping Endymion," "Diana's Return from the Chase, or the Toilet of Diana," "Narcissus and the Nymph Echo," "Acis and Galatea" (here reproduced), "Apollo and Hyacinth," and a landscape. The last mentioned was woven to replace a missing original.

S. G. F.